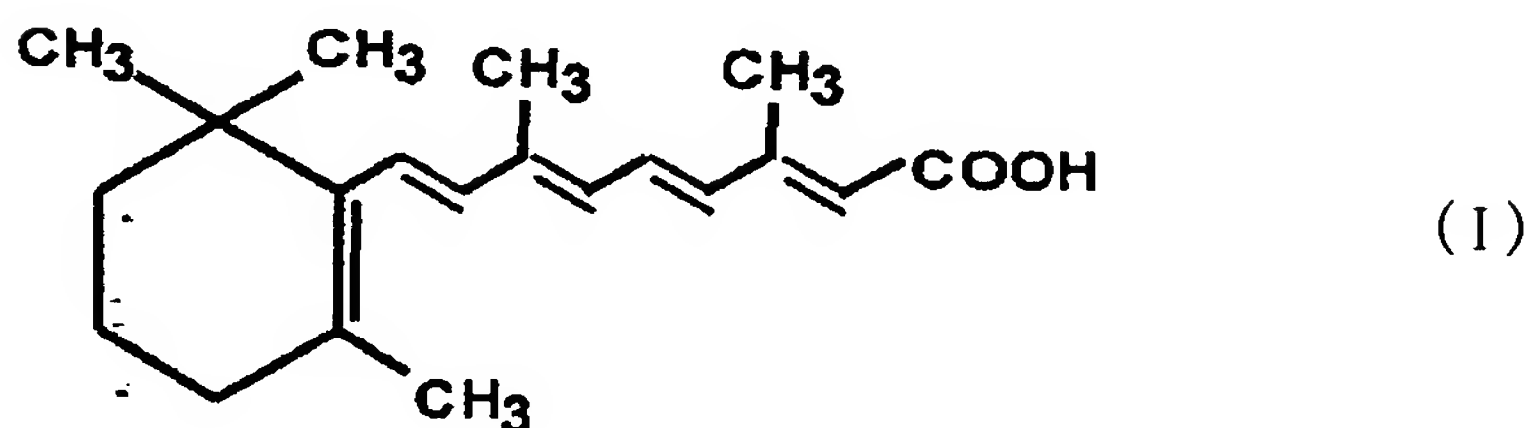


## Claims

[1] An agent for treating or preventing diabetes, the agent containing retinoic acid as an active ingredient.

[2] The agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retinoic acid is all-trans retinoic acid represented by the following formula (I).



[3] The agent as claimed in claim 1, which is in the form of an aqueous suspension of retinoic acid.

[4] The agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein retinoic acid is in the form of composite particles of retinoic acid and an inorganic substance or an organic substance.

[5] The agent as claimed in claim 4, wherein the inorganic substance is a polyvalent metal inorganic acid salt.

[6] The agent as claimed in claim 4, wherein the organic substance is a biodegradable polymer.

[7] The agent as claimed in claim 4, wherein the composite particles are nanoparticles having an average particle diameter of from 5 to 300 nm.

[8] An agent for activating  $\beta$  cells of pancreas, the agent containing retinoic acid as an active ingredient.